CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.-99. (Cancelled)

100. (Previously Presented) An isolated immunogenic peptide consisting of a portion of SEQ ID NO: 39, wherein said portion comprises (i) at least 9 contiguous amino acids from amino acids 56-70 of SEQ ID NO: 39 or (ii) at least 9 contiguous amino acids from amino acids 448-462 of SEQ ID NO: 39, wherein the immunogenic peptide is 9 to 34 amino acids in length and is recognized by a $CD4^+$ T lymphocyte, which is restricted by a Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC) Class II molecule.

101.-106. (Cancelled)

107. (Previously Presented) The isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 100, wherein the peptide consists of amino acids 56-70 of SEQ ID NO: 39.

108. (Previously Presented) The isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 100, wherein the peptide consists of amino acids 448-462 of SEQ ID NO: 39.

109. (Previously Presented) The isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 100, wherein the peptide consists of amino acids 57-70 of SEQ ID NO: 39.

110. (Previously Presented) The isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 100, wherein the peptide consists of amino acids 449-462 of SEQ ID NO: 39.

111. (Previously Presented) The isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 100, wherein the peptide consists of amino acids 450-462 of SEQ ID NO: 39.

112. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic peptide of claim 100, wherein the MHC Class II molecule is Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA)-DR.

113. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic peptide of claim 112, wherein the HLA-DR is HLA-DRB1*0401.

114. (Previously Presented) A single-chain Class II-MHC-peptide construct comprising the immunogenic peptide of claim 100 linked to an MHC Class II molecule or an immunogenic peptide binding portion thereof.

115. (Previously Presented) The single-chain Class II-MHC-peptide construct of claim 114, wherein the immunogenic peptide binding portion of the MHC Class II molecule is the β chain of the MHC Class II molecule.

116. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the immunogenic peptide of claim 100.

117. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising an MHC Class II molecule or an immunogenic peptide binding portion thereof linked to the immunogenic peptide of claim 100.

118. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

(i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 116 *in vitro*, and

(ii) simultaneously or subsequently exposing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes to the antigen presenting cells *in vitro*,

whereupon the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes are induced to respond to melanoma.

119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 118, wherein the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes are obtained from a host and the method further comprises:

(iii) administering the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes to the host.

120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 119, wherein the host is a mammal.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 120, wherein the mammal is a human.

122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 119, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

123. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

(i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 116 *in vitro*, and

(ii) subsequently exposing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in the host to the antigen presenting cells by administering the antigen presenting cells to the host,

whereupon the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

124. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 123, wherein the host is a mammal.

125. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 124, wherein the mammal is a human.

126. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 123, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

127. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises administering the composition of claim 116 to the host, whereupon the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

128. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

(i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 117 *in vitro*, and

(ii) simultaneously or subsequently exposing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes to the antigen presenting cells *in vitro*,

whereupon the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes are induced to respond to melanoma.

129. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 128, wherein the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes are obtained from a host and the method further comprises:

(iii) administering the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes to the host.

130. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 129, wherein the host is a mammal.

131. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 130, wherein the mammal is a human.

132. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 129, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

133. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

(i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 117 *in vitro*, and

(ii) subsequently exposing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in the host to the antigen presenting cells by administering the antigen presenting cells to the host,

whereupon the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

134. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 133, wherein the host is a mammal.

135. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 134, wherein the mammal is a human.

136. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 133, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

137. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises administering the composition of claim 117 to the host, whereupon the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

138.-191. (Not Entered)

192. (Previously Presented) A derivative of an isolated immunogenic peptide consisting of a portion of SEQ ID NO: 39, wherein the portion comprises (a) at least 9 amino acids from amino acids 56-70 of SEQ ID NO: 39, wherein the derivative consists of an amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of A63V, I58F, I58V, L60F, and L60Q, or (b) at least 9 amino acids from amino acids 448-462 of SEQ ID NO: 39, wherein the derivative consists of an amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of D456V, Y449F, and Y449Q, wherein the peptide is 9 to 34 amino acids in length, and wherein the derivative of an isolated immunogenic peptide is restricted by a MHC Class II molecule.

193. (Previously Presented) The derivative of an isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 192, wherein the MHC Class II molecule is HLA-DR.

194. (Previously Presented) The derivative of an isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 193, wherein the HLA-DR is HLA-DRB1*0401.

195. (Currently Amended) A single-chain ~~Class II-MHC peptide construct~~ Class II-MHC-peptide construct comprising the derivative of an isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 192 linked to an MHC Class II molecule or an immunogenic peptide binding portion thereof.

196. (Previously Presented) The single-chain Class II-MHC-peptide construct of claim 195, wherein the immunogenic peptide binding portion of the MHC Class II molecule is the β chain of the MHC Class II molecule.

197. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the derivative of an isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 192.

198. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising an MHC Class II molecule or an immunogenic peptide binding portion thereof ~~is~~ linked to the derivative of an isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 192.

199. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

(i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 197 *in vitro*, and

(ii) simultaneously or subsequently exposing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes to the antigen presenting cells *in vitro*,

whereupon the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes are induced to respond to melanoma.

200. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 199, wherein the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes are obtained from a host and the method further comprises:

(iii) administering the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes to the host.

201. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 200, wherein the host is a mammal.

202. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 201, wherein the mammal is a human.

203. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 200, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

204. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

(i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 197 *in vitro*, and

(ii) subsequently exposing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in the host to the antigen presenting cells by administering the antigen presenting cells to the host,

whereupon the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

205. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 204, wherein the host is a mammal.

206. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 205, wherein the mammal is a human.

207. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 204, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

208. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises administering the composition of claim 197 to the host, whereupon the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

209. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

(i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 198 *in vitro*, and

(ii) simultaneously or subsequently exposing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes to the antigen presenting cells *in vitro*,

whereupon the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes are induced to respond to melanoma.

210. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 209, wherein the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes are obtained from a host and the method further comprises:

(iii) administering the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes to the host.

211. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 210, wherein the host is a mammal.

212. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 211, wherein the mammal is a human.

213. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 210, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

214. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

(i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 198 *in vitro*, and

(ii) subsequently exposing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in the host to the antigen presenting cells by administering the antigen presenting cells to the host,

whereupon the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

215. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 214, wherein the host is a mammal.

216. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 215, wherein the mammal is a human.

217. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 214, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

218. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises administering the composition of claim 198 to the host, whereupon the $CD4^+$ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

219. (Currently Amended) A derivative of an isolated immunogenic peptide consisting of a portion of SEQ ID NO: 39 comprising at least 9 contiguous amino acids from amino acids 56-70 of SEQ ID NO: 39, wherein the immunogenic peptide is 9 to 34 amino acids in length and is recognized by a $CD4^+$ lymphocyte, which is restricted by a ~~major histocompatibility complex~~ Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC) ~~class~~ Class II molecule, wherein the derivative consists of a substitution at amino acid 65 of SEQ ID NO: 39 with a valine.

220. (Currently Amended) A derivative of an isolated immunogenic peptide consisting of a portion of SEQ ID NO: 39 comprising at least 9 contiguous amino acids from amino acids 448-462 of SEQ ID NO: 39, wherein the immunogenic peptide is 9 to 34 amino acids in length and is recognized by a $CD4^+$ lymphocyte restricted by a ~~major histocompatibility complex~~ Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC) ~~class~~ Class II molecule, wherein the derivative consists of a substitution at amino acid 451 of SEQ ID NO: 39 with a phenylalanine.